THOMAS LINCOLN AND
NANCY HANKS

DRAWER 1

FATHER - THOMAS LINCOLN

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Thomas Lincoln Family

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085 05306

father was slain before his eyes when he was only six years old, was turned adrift, without home or care, for at ten years of age we find him "a wandering laboring boy" who was left uneducated and supported himself by farm work and other menial employment, and learned the trades of carpenter and cabinet-maker. But he must have had good stuff in him, for when he was twenty-five years old he had saved enough from his wages to buy a farm in Hardin County. Local tradition, which, however, cannot always be trusted, represents him to have been "an easy-going man, and slow to anger, but when roused a formidable adversary." He was above the medium height, had a powerful frame, and, like his immortal son, had a wide local reputation as a wrestler.

The True Abraham Lincoln, William Eleroy Curtis, page 17.

Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's Mother

At the time of her marriage to Thomas Lincoln, Nancy was in her twenty-third year. She was above the ordinary height in stature, weighed about one hundred and thirty pounds, was slenderly built, and had much the appearance of one inclined to consumption. Her skin was dark; hair dark brown; eyes gray and small; forehead prominent; face sharp and angular, with a marked expression of melancholy which fixed itself in the memory of everyone who ever saw or knew her. Though her life was seemingly beclouded by a spirit of sadness, she was in disposition amiable and generally cheerful. Mr. Lincoln himself said to me in 1851, on receiving the news of his father's death, that whatever might be said of his parents, and however unpromising the early surroundings of his mother may have been, she was highly intellectual by nature, had a strong memory, acute judgment, and was cool and heroic. From a mental standpoint she no doubt rose above her surroundings, and had she lived, the stimulus of her nature would have accelerated her son's success, and she would have been a much more ambitious prompter than his father ever was.

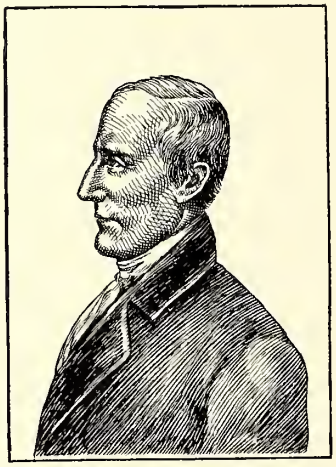
Daniel Boone enters Kentucky	1769
Great emigration to Kentucky began	1783
Indian uprising there against whites	1786
Washington's first inauguration and adoption of the Constitution	1789
Population of U. S., 3,380,000 1st Census; number of slaves... 700,000	1790
Kentucky admitted as a State	1792
Cotton-gin invented by Eli Whitney	1793
Great increase in producing cotton, and consequent growth of slavery	1795
John Adams inaugurated President	1797
Removal of U. S. Capital to Washington	1800

Herndon's Lincoln William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik, Vol. I, page 10

Marriage of Lincoln's Father and Mother

I, Christopher Columbus Graham, now in my hundredth year, and visiting the Southern Exposition in Louisville, where I live, tell this. . . I am one of the two living men who can prove that Abraham Lincoln, or Linkhorn, as the family was miscalled, was born in lawful wedlock, for I saw Thomas Lincoln marry Nancy Hanks on the twelfth day of June, 1806. . . . I was hunting roots for my medicines, and just went to the wedding to get a good supper, and got it. . . . .

Tom Lincoln was a carpenter, and a good one for those days, when a cabin was built mainly with the ax, and not a nail or bolt or hinge in it, only leathers and pins to the door, and no glass, except in watches and spectacles and bottles. Tom had the best set of tools in what was then and now Washington County. . . . .



Jesse Head, the good Methodist minister that married them.

Jesse Head, the good Methodist minister that married them, was also a carpenter or cabinet-maker by trade, and as he was then a neighbor, they were good friends. . . .

While you pin me down to facts, I will say that I saw Nancy Hanks Lincoln at her wedding, a fresh-looking girl, I should say over twenty. Tom was a respectable mechanic and could choose, and she was treated with respect.

I was at the infare, too, given by John H. Parrott, her guardian, and only girls with money had guardians appointed by the court. We had bear-meat; . . . . venison; wild turkey and ducks' eggs, wild and tame—so common that you could buy them at two bits a bushel; maple sugar, swung on a string, to bite off for coffee or whiskey; syrup in big gourds; peach-and-honey; a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a pit, and covered with green boughs to keep the juices in; and a race for

the whiskey bottle. . . Our table was of the puncheons cut from solid logs, and on the next day they were the floor of the new cabin.

Signed Statement of Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, of Louisville, Kentucky, in 1884. Appended to *The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Ida M. Tarbell.

How Tom and Nancy Lincoln Began Life Together

"Looks didn't count them days, nohow. It was stren'th an' work an' daredevil. A lazy man or a coward was jist pizen, an' a spindlin' feller had to stay in the settlemints. The clearin's hadn't no use fur him. Tom was strong, an' he wasn't lazy nor afeerd o' nothin', but he was kind o' shif'less—couldn't git nothin' ahead, an' didn't keer putickalar. Lots o' them kind o' fellers in arly days, 'druther hunt an' fish, an' I reckon they had their use. They killed off the varmints an' made it safe fur other fellers to go into the woods with an ax.

"When Nancy married Tom he was workin' in a carpenter shop. It wasn't Tom's fault he couldn't make a livin' by his trade. Thar was sca'cely any money in that kentry. Every man had to do his own tinkerin', an' keep everlastin'ly at work to git enough to eat. So Tom tuk up some land. It was mighty ornery land, but it was the best Tom could git, when he hadn't much to trade fur it.

"Pore? We was all pore, them days, but the Lincolns was porer than anybody. Choppin' trees an' grubbin' roots an' splittin' rails an' huntin' an' trappin' didn't leave Tom no time. . . . . It was all he could do to git his fambly enough to eat and to kiver 'em. Nancy was turrible ashamed o' the way they lived, but she knowed Tom was doin' his best, an' she wasn't the pesterin' kind. She was purty as a pictur an' smart as you'd find 'em anywhere. She could read an' write. The Hankses was some smarter'n the Lincolns. Tom thought a heap o' Nancy, an' he was as good to her as he knowed how. He didn't drink or swear or play cyards or fight, an' them was drinkin', cussin,' quarrelsome days. Tom was popylar, an' he could lick a bully if he had to. He jist couldn't git ahead, somehow."

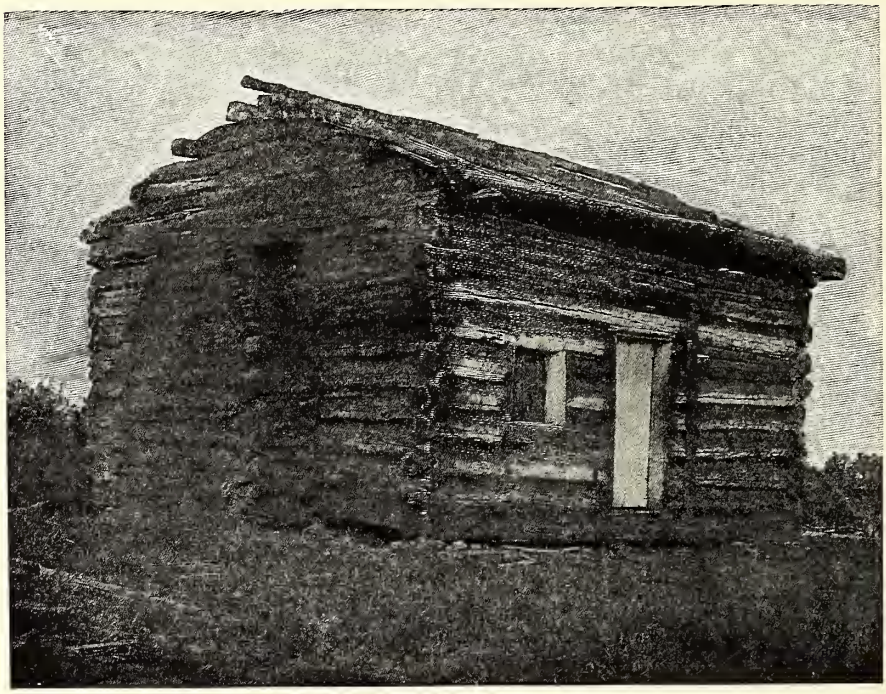
Reminiscences of Lincoln's Cousin and Play-mate, Dennis Hanks, written down by Mrs. Eleanor Atkinson, in 1889. *The American Magazine*, Vol. LXV, February, 1908, page 361.

CHAPTER II

First Seven Years in Kentucky

Birth of Abraham Lincoln

Thomas Lincoln took his wife to a little log cabin in a hamlet called Elizabethtown, probably because he thought it would be



In this cabin Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, and here he spent the first four years of his childhood.

more congenial for her than his lonely farm in Hardin County, which was fourteen miles away; and perhaps he thought that he could earn a better living by carpenter work than by farming. Here their first child, Sarah, was born about a year after the marriage.

Barton
1920

LINCOLN'S PARENTAGE.

New Facts About His Family.

New York Tribune.

Recent developments promise to settle the long-disputed question whether the father and mother of Abraham Lincoln ever were legally married. Shortly before Ward H. Lamon published his life of Lincoln in 1872, it became known to some of those who had been the warmest friends of the dead President that Lamon intended to publish the statement that on account of their extreme poverty the parents of Lincoln never were legally married, as according to the laws of the State of Kentucky, it would have been necessary to file a bond to guard the state against an over-supply of paupers. Much other matter bearing on the same point was also intended to be included in the book, and the Lincoln family desired to have it suppressed. The family and its most intimate friends were positive that there was not the least gounds for a charge of illegitimacy against Lincoln. Accordingly Judge David Davis and Leonard Swett, a prominent lawyer, living in Illinois, who had been a firm friend of Lincoln, exerted themselves successfully to have much of this matter suppressed.

It appears, however, from Lamon's book that in his own mind the author had grave doubts as to whether Lincoln's parents were ever married, and he seems to render the home of Lincoln's parents as unattractive as possible in order to make the contrast between Lincoln's early and later surroundings as strong as possible. Lamon speaks of Thomas, Abraham's father, as "wanting in character," and says that this was one of the reasons why "Sally" Bush, "a modest and pious girl, in all things pure and decent," refused to marry him. Lamon refers to the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks as follows:

"Some time in the year 1806 he married Nancy Hanks. It was in the shop of her uncle, Joseph Hanks, at Elizabethtown, in Hardin county, that he had essayed to learn the trade.

* * * It is admitted by all the old residents of the place that they were honestly married, but precisely when or how no one can tell. Diligent and thorough searches by the most competent persons have failed to discover any trace of the fact in the public records of Hardin and the adjoining counties. The license and the minister's return in the case of Lincoln and Sarah Johnson, his second wife, were easily found in the place where the law required them to be; but of Nancy Hanks's marriage there exists no evidence but that of mutual acknowledgement and cohabitation. [illegible] time of their [illegible] was twenty-eight years of age, and Nancy about twenty-three.

Again on page seventeen is found the following:

[illegible] lives of his (Abraham's) father and mother and the history and character of the family before their settlement in Indiana, were topics upon which Mr Lincoln never spoke but with great reluctance and significant reserve. In his family Bible he kept a register of births, marriages and deaths, every entry being carefully made in his own handwriting. * * * It has not a word about the Hanks or the Sparrows. It shows the marriage of Sally Bush, first with Daniel Johnston and then with Thomas Lincoln; but it is entirely silent as to the marriage of his own mother. It does not even give the date of her birth, but barely recognizes her existence and demise, to make the vacancy which was speedily filled by Sarah Johnson.

To show Mr. Lincoln's reticence about his parentage Lamon gives several extremely brief replies which were sent to applicants for biograghical sketches. "Mr. Lincoln" writes one, "communicated to me some facts about his ancestry which he did not wish published, and which I have never spoken of or alluded to [illegible]

RESULTS OF RECENT RESEARCH

While in Kentucky last Fall ex-Secretary Bristow met a lawyer of high reputation, R. J. Browne. Mr. Browne lives in Springfield, Washington county, is a man of wealth, a Republican and one who takes great pride in guarding the memory of the dead President. He heard of the reports referred to above, and caused a diligent search to be made for the record of the marriage of Lincoln's parents. The search was successful, and Mr. Browne mentioned the fact to Mr. Bristow, who urged him to make the result public in order to remove the doubt in the minds of many on the subject. Mr. Browne promised to send copies of the bond and certificate to General Bristow, and recently he did so. Mr. Browne's letter, and the accompanying copies of documents were as follows:

SPRINGFIELD, KY., Dec. 13, 1878.

Dear Sir: When I last saw you in Louisville I promised to send you a copy of the record of President Lincoln's father's marriage. I now send it to you. The record ought forever to silence the charge of the President's illegitimacy. I have talked with men of the highest veracity who have told me that they attended the wedding. With a sincere wish, etc., I am truly yours.

R. J. BROWNE.

General B. H. BRISTOW, New York City.

The following is a copy of the bond:

Know all men by these presents. That we, Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry, are held and firmly bound unto his Excellency, the Governor of Kentucky, in the just and full sum of £50 current money, to which well and truly to be made to the said Governor and his successors, we bind ourselves, our heirs, etc. Jointly and severally firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of June, 1806. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas, there is a marriage shortly intended between the above bound Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, for which a license has been issued now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue in Law.

THOMAS LINCOLN, [seal.]
RICHARD BERRY, [seal.]

By this certificate, which is now published for the first time, it appears that the marriage of Lincoln's parents occurred on September 12, 1806. Lamon, however, states that the first child of the family was born February 10, 1807—a girl, who was called Nancy, and subsequently, on the death her mother, Sarah. Search for this certificate was made in Larue county some time ago by a man named Samuel Haycraft, but without success, for the obvious reason that when the certificate was filed, Washington county included Larue county.

STATE [illegible]

LINCOLN LORE

No. 112. FORT WAYNE, INDIANA June 1, 1931

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Endowed By The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

A JUNE BRIDE

On June 12 a new Lincoln shrine will be dedicated at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The cabin in which the parents of the president were married, enclosed within a beautiful edifice, will be preserved as a memorial of the marriage vows that made Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks husband and wife.

The nuptials occurring in the month of June, 1906, served as a climax of another one of those typical pioneer romances where the children of neighbors were united after having been playmates, sweethearts, and lovers.

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were both orphans, having lost their fathers before they reached their teens. Thomas' father was massacred by the Indians in Kentucky in 1786. Both family tradition and court documents, reveal that Nancy's mother was a widow when she came to Kentucky some time before 1790.

After the second marriage of Nancy's mother the child went to live with Richard Berry, Sr., whose wife is said to have been a sister of Nancy's mother. Her home was not far from where the widow Lincoln was living on Beech Fork.

The senior Richard Berry died sometime before December 4, 1798, the date on which his will was probated. His old daughter, Joanna Berry Brumfield, was the mother of William Brumfield, who married "Ann" Lincoln, sister of Thomas Lincoln. Richard Berry, Sr's, oldest son, Richard Berry, Jr., after his father's death, became the guardian of Nancy Hanks, and he so signs on her marriage bond.

It will be noted that Richard Berry, Jr., was a brother-in-law to Thomas Lincoln's sister. One who is familiar with the close proximity of the Berry, Brumfield, Crume, and Lincoln homes on Beech Fork will be able to visualize the community that served as playground for the children of these pioneers. All five of the Widow Lincoln's children, including Thomas, married young people living in the Beech Fork neighborhood.

From the reminiscences of Mr. James Thompson and William Hardesty, we glean the following description of the Richard Berry cabin "on the banks of Beech Fork near what was then called Mattingly's Mill, now called Beechland Mills. It is situated about seven miles from Springfield, on the top of a grassy knoll in the midst of a clump of trees. The higher cabin to the right in the photograph is the original Berry Cabin, while the one to the left has been constructed since. The old cabin has but one room, and it was in that room that deacon Jesse Head performed the ceremony that united Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. The rough floor timbers show the usage that they have been subjected to, and the logs that form the walls are blackened with smoke and age. The mud with which the cabin is chinked has grown hard and is as much a part of the structure as the logs whose interstices it fills."

The traditions gathered by Herndon and used by him in his Lincoln biography, and later by Lamon and Beveridge, have been responsible for building up a false and purely imaginary background for the girlhood days of Nancy Hanks.

One by one duly authorized public records have made invalid this idle talk and gossip which Herndon displayed under the caption of "Gods naked truth," and when the "stagnant putrid pool" from which he claimed Lincoln came is actually located it proves to be associated with another family.

The confusion of Lincoln's mother with another Nancy Hanks, a woman about the same age, is partly responsible for the great injustice done to the orphan girl who lived in the home of the Berrys.

According to Herndon, Thomas and Betsey Sparrow took the waif, Nancy, into their home to live and they became her foster parents. The Sparrows were not married until six and one-half years after the date of Nancy's alleged adoption by them, and there is no dependable evidence to show that she ever lived with them.

Herndon's classification of Nancy among the poor whites is also unjust. The Berrys, Brumfields, Crumes, Mitchells, Thompsons, Caldwells, Shipleys, etc., among whom she lived in Washington County and who had immigrated from Virginia, would not bear out the reflection which has been cast on her own forebears.

The disgusting camp meeting scene featuring Nancy Hanks as a young lady in a most unbecoming manner is a gross misrepresentation of the woman who was to become the bride of Thomas Lincoln. Herndon not only assumes the identity of the female who participated in this incident but he deliberately moves the original traditional story back ten years to antidate the marriage of Nancy Hanks.

The Herndon manuscripts also allege that Nancy Hanks was courted by Thomas Lincoln while she was a visitor in the home of Joseph Hanks in Elizabethtown, and that Lincoln met Nancy in Hank's carpenter shop. This story is also baseless. Joseph Hanks was a single man until four years after Nancy's marriage and had neither home nor carpenter shop in Elizabethtown previous to 1806.

Lamon using the Herndon source material told the world that of "Nancy Hanks marriage there exists no evidence but that of mutual acknowledgement and cohabitation." He further states that she married a man who did not love her and that she was a sort of a second choice wife. This of course paved the way for the gross libel which both Herndon, Lamon, and later writers have brought against the moral character of the president's mother.

The marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, on file in the Washington county court house, signed by Richard Berry, the guardian of Nancy Hanks, lifts the mother of Lincoln out of Herndon's "stagnant putrid pool" and places her in a wholesome cabin on Beech Fork. Here she was wooed and won by a worthy pioneer, the youngest son of the Widow Lincoln.

It is to be hoped that those who have a voice in the dedication of these nuptial logs now preserved at Harrodsburg, will make plain that the parents of Abraham Lincoln are worthy of this belated recognition of their honorable and happy union, which was productive of such a noble son as Abraham Lincoln.

The Romance of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks

By
LOUIS A. WARREN, Litt.D.
Director Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

For contact information, go to www.LincolnCollection.org.

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The Louisville Times
February 7, 1964

FROM SPRINGFIELD COURTHOUSE

Proof Of Abraham Lincoln Legitimacy Given To U.S. Library By Kentuckians

Courier-Journal & Times Bureau

Washington—Copies of nine documents, including two that both eluded and haunted Abraham Lincoln throughout his life, were turned over to the Library of Congress here yesterday by a delegation of Kentuckians.

And in return, the Kentuckians got back the originals which were sent here earlier this week for restoration.

The documents relate to episodes and incidents in the life of Lincoln's parents—Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. They have been on file in the Washington County, Kentucky, Courthouse.

Kentuckians Os Hand

The facsimiles are to be catalogued in the library's Lincoln collection—the largest in the world—to document here that Lincoln was of legitimate birth. The originals will be returned to Washington County for safekeeping in a fireproof vault at the Courthouse in Springfield.

Participating in the brief ceremonies at the library were Representative Frank Chelf of Lebanon; Ben Simms Haydon, president of the Washington County Historical Society; County Court Clerk Earl Campbell of Springfield, and Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, librarian for the Library of Congress.

Two of the documents recall an interesting sidelight in Lincoln's political career. They are the marriage bond and minister's certificate of marriage for Lincoln's parents.

Lincoln commenced his search for the originals when his Senate campaign against Stephen Douglas in 1958 gave rise to rumors that the tall Kentuckian was of illegitimate birth.

Lincoln, who reportedly knew little of the early life of his parents and grandparents, however, mistakenly sought out the documents in Hardin County, Kentucky, believing that since this was where he was born, it was also where his parents had been reared and married.

Despite the search, Lincoln never found the documents and he died wondering, according to some historians, if the rumors of his illegitamacy were true.

Relative Finds Proof

Proof of his legitimate birth came 13 years after his death when a relative of Lincoln's mother, incensed by the rumors of illegitimacy, discovered the marriage documents in the Washington County Courthouse.

Included in the other documents restored by the library are a marriage bond for Thomas Lincoln's sister, Mary, and Ralph Crume, and a document listing Thomas Lincoln as delinquent in a small tax on a horse.

The documents were in various stages of deterioration when they were turned over to the library. They were treated to prevent further deterioration.

Dr. Mumford told the delegation the documents constitute important additions to the library's collection.

Records Used To Defend Lincoln

BY BERNARD J. LOSH
Camerica Staff Writer

ONE day recently, the speaker at a noontide club meeting here, a man of studious attainments, got to talking about how poor circumstances of a man's birth were never a bar to his getting ahead in this country.

It was only a few days before Lincoln's birthday and the speaker, to give point to his observation, gave Abraham Lincoln as an example, stating that Lincoln rose to illustrious greatness in America even though burdened with the stigma of having been born out of wedlock.

There was one man in particular in the audience whose reaction was one of resentment and surprise. He was surprised that a man of the speaker's education and intelligence would make that statement. After the meeting he sought out the speaker to correct him. He told him the true story as he knew it, in irrefutable detail.

The man who heard the statement and hastened to correct it was George W. Head, advertising and sales promotion manager of the National Cash Register Co. He had reason to believe that the luncheon day speaker was not malicious in what he said but he was, nevertheless, compounding a false and evil rumor.

One reason George Head was shocked at what he heard was that he is the great-great-grandson of Rev. Jesse Head who on June 12, 1806, in a log cabin at Beechland, Washington county, Ky., performed the marriage ceremony uniting Thomas Lincoln, 28 and Nancy Hanks, 23. To them, a scant three years later, was born a son, Abraham Lincoln.

When the noontide speaker received, some days later, the photostatic reproductions of the marriage certificate and the marriage bond, both sent to him by Head, he was genuinely grateful. He confessed he had never taken the time to correctly inform himself of so important a detail.

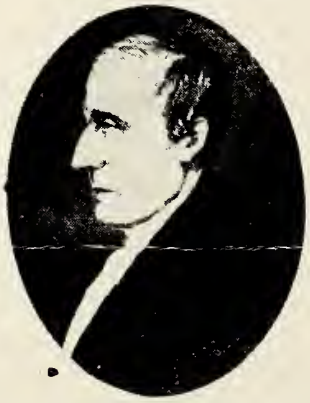
This incident was one of a series, all coming within a few years, to interest and intrigue Mr. Head. The belief that Lincoln was an illegitimate child is still held in high places and low, he discovered, and it persists despite the existence of documented claims and official records to disprove it.

How did this vicious rumor ever get started? Why did it gain such widespread currency? These developed into questions to arouse Head since the truth had been a tradition in the Head family for many years. How did the truth get so warped?

Reflecting on these matters, Head determined to make a survey of the whole situation and this in turn led him to the point where he has undertaken, as a personal duty, the task of stilling the misinformation.

"It is my belief that the rumor was started by Lincoln's political enemies in the late 1850's," Head says. "It was a malicious tale, calculated to hurt him with

Continued on Page Eight



Rev. Jesse Head, who married parents of Abraham Lincoln

Daytonian George W. Head offers proof of true Lincoln history

Log cabin in which wedding took place is at Harrodsburg, Ky.

Lincoln Records Revealed

Continued from Page Six

the people. And yet, it must be related, that to those who made only a cursory investigation of the report there did appear to be some justification for it."

Head points out that Lincoln himself eventually became obsessed with the ugly rumor and secretly attempted to run down the marriage record of his mother and father. In this he failed.

"He did not succeed," Head says, "because he searched the wrong courthouse records and he died without ever having seen the recorded truth. He always believed, however, that his parents had been duly and legally married."

A strange series of errors caused Lincoln in 1859 to examine the records of Hardin county, Ky., instead of Washington county, the reason for his failure.

"It must be remembered," Head points out, "that Lincoln's search was made nearly 100 years ago when record keeping was not the science it is today. He went to Hardin county under the belief that his father who, before Abraham was born, owned some property there, also must have married Nancy Hanks there. His father was dead and his mother had died when he was about 10 years old, and there was no one else he wanted to talk with about such a painful subject.

"The Rev. Head, who was a circuit riding minister, kept the record of his marriages in a book where each page contained a number of entries of marriages, some performed in Mercer county, and some in Washington county. Instead of filing the marriage returns in the counties where the ceremonies were performed, Rev. Head filed entire pages in Washington county, where he lived at that time, regardless of where the marriages took place.

"That is how it happened," Head continued, "that the marriage bond and the certification of the ceremony for Lincoln's parents was filed in Washington county and not in Hardin county where Abe searched and failed."

And because Lincoln himself had failed to find the proof he wanted, the rumor gained still wider circulation.

"It proves again," Head says, "that even now, with the facts incontestably established for many years, the rumor is still making its distorted rounds because the truth has a hard time catching up with a falsehood."

As recently as last October, Head forwarded photostatic copies of the marriage bond and minister's return to the Chicago Historical Society. The enthusiasm with which they were received there justifies his conclusion, he feels, that even so important an historical institution as that did not know of the existence of this incontrovertable proof.

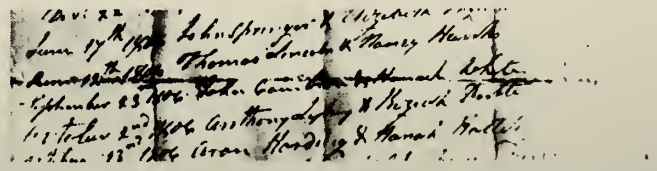
And as late as last month George Head met at a Rotary club luncheon the author of two books on Lincoln, who did not know that proof of Lincoln's legitimacy existed, and he asked Head for a photostatic copy. Head says, "I am continually meeting people, who are deeply interested in Lincoln and have read much about him. But who still believe the false rumor that his parents were never married."

The simple log cabin in which Lincoln's parents were married now stands on the grounds of Pioneer Memorial State park at Harrodsburg, Ky., within a brick memorial especially built for it. It was moved from the original site at Beechland, Washington county to the present site and re-erected there in 1912-13.

Among the documents dealing with the wedding is one of more than passing interest today. A Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, one of the wedding guests, gives this report of what they had to eat at the "infare" or housewarming held at the time of the marriage ceremony.

"We had bear meat (that you can eat the grease of, and it will not rise like other fats); venison, wild turkey and ducks, eggs, wild and tame, (so common that you could buy them at two bits a bushel); maple sugar, swung on a string, to bite off for coffee or whiskey; syrup in big gourds; peach and honey; a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a pit and covered with green boughs to keep the juices in; and a race for the whiskey bottle. The sheep cost the most."

The man whose dutifully filed record gives the lie to one of the most persistent rumors ever to plague the people of the country, now occupies a firm place in history. In 1922 a monument at Harrodsburg was dedicated to the Rev. Jesse Head and his wife. Not only is the Lincoln marriage record being preserved for all time but the memory of the man who wrote it is being given the same consideration in perpetuity.



Minister's marriage license record was filed in wrong county

The Louisville Times
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Relative Finds Proof

Proof of his legitimate birth came 13 years after his death when a relative of Lincoln's mother, incensed by the rumors of illegitimacy, discovered the marriage documents in the Washington County Courthouse.

Included in the other documents restored by the library are a marriage bond for Thomas Lincoln's sister, Mary, and Ralph Crume, and a document listing Thomas Lincoln as delinquent in a small tax on a horse.

The documents were in various stages of deterioration when they were turned over to the library. They were treated to prevent further deterioration.

Dr. Mumford told the delegation the documents constitute important additions to the library's collection.

The Communique
Frankfort, Kentucky
March 18, 1964

PROOF that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married near Springfield, Kentucky on June 12, 1806, nearly three years before Abraham Lincoln was born, was made a part of the Lincoln collection of the Library of Congress at special ceremonies there on February 6. The verification was presented in the form of a replica of the original marriage bond, bearing the signature of the minister who performed the ceremony. The original bond, which was returned to Kentucky, has hung on a wall of the County Clerk's office at Springfield for many years. Through the efforts of the Washington County Historical Society the bond was taken to Washington for preservation treatment by Library of Congress experts. President Lincoln unsuccessfully sought to find the bond when rumors that his parents never were legally married were first circulated during the presidential campaign of 1860. Society Director Col. George M. Chinn attended the ceremonies and witnessed the presentation of the replica to Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress.

THE SUNDAY OKLAHOMAN
Women's News
September 3, 1972

Idea of Cousin Marriage Shocks Reader; Geneticist Answers

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I read with horror and shocked disbelief your advice to the woman who asked if cousins could safely marry.

Your answer was, "If both are healthy and there is no history of hereditary diseases in the family,

ANN LANDERS

such as epilepsy, hemophilia, hereditary blindness or deafness, there is no reason cousins should not marry."

My uncle and aunt are first cousins and they had two children. One is as sappy as a maple tree in April. The other hasn't spoken to any of us for 10 years so we don't know about her, but she looks mighty strange.

Please, Ann, do some research and reverse yourself. We have too many screwballs in this world as it is. Thank you — Cape Codified

DEAR COD: Here's what Nobel Prize-winning geneticist Joshua Lederberg of Stanford says (and you can't do better than that for an authority):

"Cousin marriages unquestionably carry a greater risk of genetic disease in the offspring by a factor of 2 to 4 for the worse. However, this is of the same order as having children in the late 30s instead of the early 20s. So, every couple must decide for themselves. I would urge cousins who are considering marriage to seek genetic counseling."

From Amram Scheinfeld's book, "Your Heredity and Enrivonment":

"Cousins with superior qualities tend to produce superior children. Charles Darwin married his first cousin, Emma Wedgewood of the famous china makers. They had many distinguished descendants. Abraham Lincoln was the product of a cousin marriage."

So, I say to cousins who fall in love, your descendants could go either way.

JOURNAL GAZETTE
Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Sun., Sept. 3, 1972

Ann Landers

Cousins Planning To Wed Urged To Obtain Genetic Counseli

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I read with horror and shocked disbelief your advice to the woman who asked if cousins could safely marry.

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MUIR

P. O. Box 159
Bardstown, Ky. 40004
July 20, 1981

Mrs. Mary Jane Hubler
The Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mrs. Hubler:

When Mrs. Muir and I arrived in Bardstown on Saturday afternoon from the Frankfort, Indiana, home of our daughter, we stopped at the postoffice, and I was delighted to get your letter and copies of "Lincoln Lore" from May, 1979, to November, 1980, inclusive. That gives me a complete file from July, 1956, to November, 1980.

As I think I stated in my letter to Gerald, I am descended from James Graham who was one of the forty "Long Hunters" led into Kentucky by Col. James Knox in 1770. He hunted with Daniel Boone and after his marriage at Fort Pitt to Mary Worthington they came with the small George Rogers Clark party to settle at Corn Island (Louisville) on May 27, 1778.

Dr. Christopher C. Graham, son of James and Mary, saw Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks married; was their family doctor and gave Abraham his first book. Mother was born in 1881, and she sat on Uncle Christopher's lap as had young Lincoln years before. Dr. Graham was born in 1784 and died in 1885; Mother died in 1973.

Margaret, my wife, and daughter Ann worked on family lines at the library in Fort Wayne on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Mother went into the D. A. R. on Lt. Peter Brown, aide-de-camp to Washington, and his father-in-law, Col. Andrew Beall. On the Beall family line we have Ninian Beall, Ninian Beall Edwards and Lincoln's Ninian Wirt Edwards.

Margaret, Mrs. Muir, worked at the Springfield, Ky., courthouse today and perhaps has additional information on her Berry and Shipley lines.

True--some of the charges at the Holiday Inn in Fort Wayne are a little high, but it is a good place to stay.

Thanks for the courtesies shown me when I was there and at other times.

Sincerely,

John W. Muir

John W. Muir

Lincoln's family has long history

Wednesday is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. He would be 183 years old if he were still alive, for he was born on Feb. 12, 1809, near what is now Hardin, Ky.

A. Lincoln

When Lincoln ran for president in 1860, he said his father and grandfather had been born in Virgina and their forefathers had come from Pennsylvania. He said he didn't know any more of his family's history. But the Lincoln family had been in America for a long time, according to the World Book Encyclopedia and Encyclopedia Americana.

Abraham Lincoln's great-great-great-great-grandfather, Samuel Lincoln, was a weaver's apprentice who came to Hingham, Mass., from Hingham, England in 1637, only 17 years after the Pilgrims came to Plymouth Rock.

One of Samuel's descendants, Benjamin Lincoln, was one of George Washington's most trusted generals during the Revolutionary War, and another, Levi Lincoln, was attorney general of the United States from 1801 to 1804.

Some of Samuel's other descendants moved to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and later Virginia. Abraham Lincoln was named for his grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, who owned a farm in Virginia during the Revolutionary War. After the war, Grandfather Abraham led his wife and five sons to Kentucky in 1782. One of those five sons was named Thomas, and he grew up to be Abraham Lincoln's father.

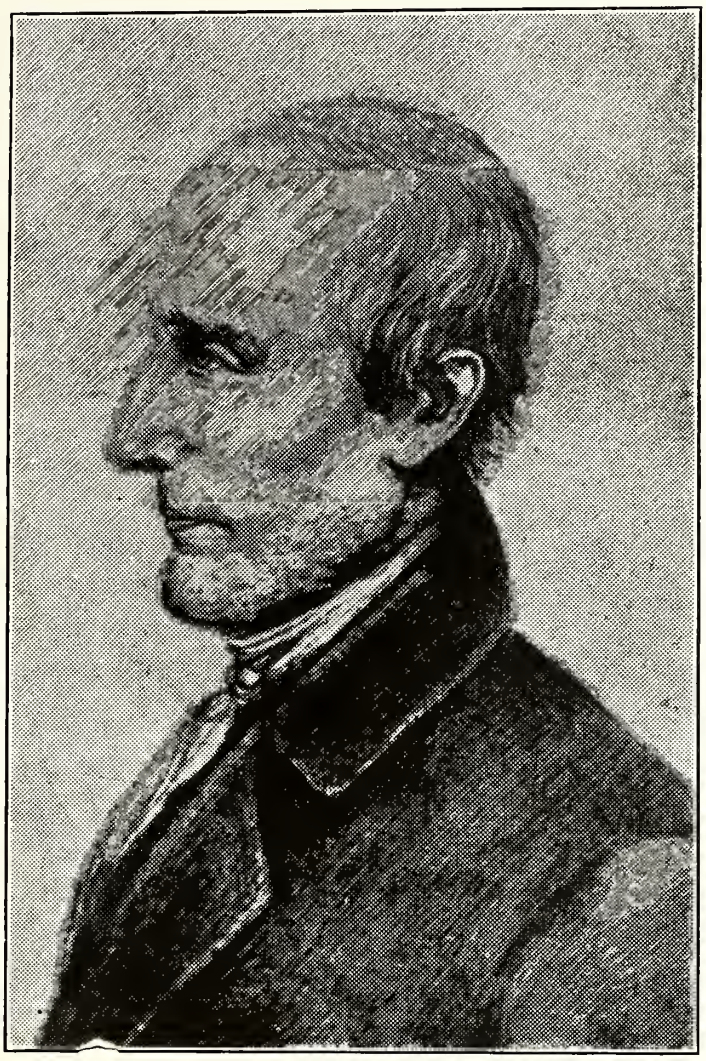
When Abraham Lincoln was 7, he and his family moved to Spencer County in southwestern Indiana. Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died when he was 9. The next year his father married a second time, and Abraham's stepmother, Sarah Lincoln, took care of him.

When Abraham Lincoln was 21, he and his family moved to Illinois. He eventually became president of the United States. He died April 15, 1865, after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth.

[illegible]

Cobin in temple

THE MAN WHO MARRIED LINCOLN'S PARENTS



REV. JESSE HEAD

Extracts from address by Dr. W. E. Barton on
"The Man Who Married Lincoln's Parents."

Jesse Head, son of William Edward Head, was born June 10, 1768, in Frederick County, Maryland. On April 10, 1768, was born in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, Jane Ramsey, to whom he was married January 9, 1789. About 1795, he migrated from Maryland to Kentucky and made his home on Road Run, not far from the Lincolns and Berrys. On October 2, 1805, he was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church, by Bishop Francis Asbury.

He preached the Word on Sundays.

He performed numerous marriages.

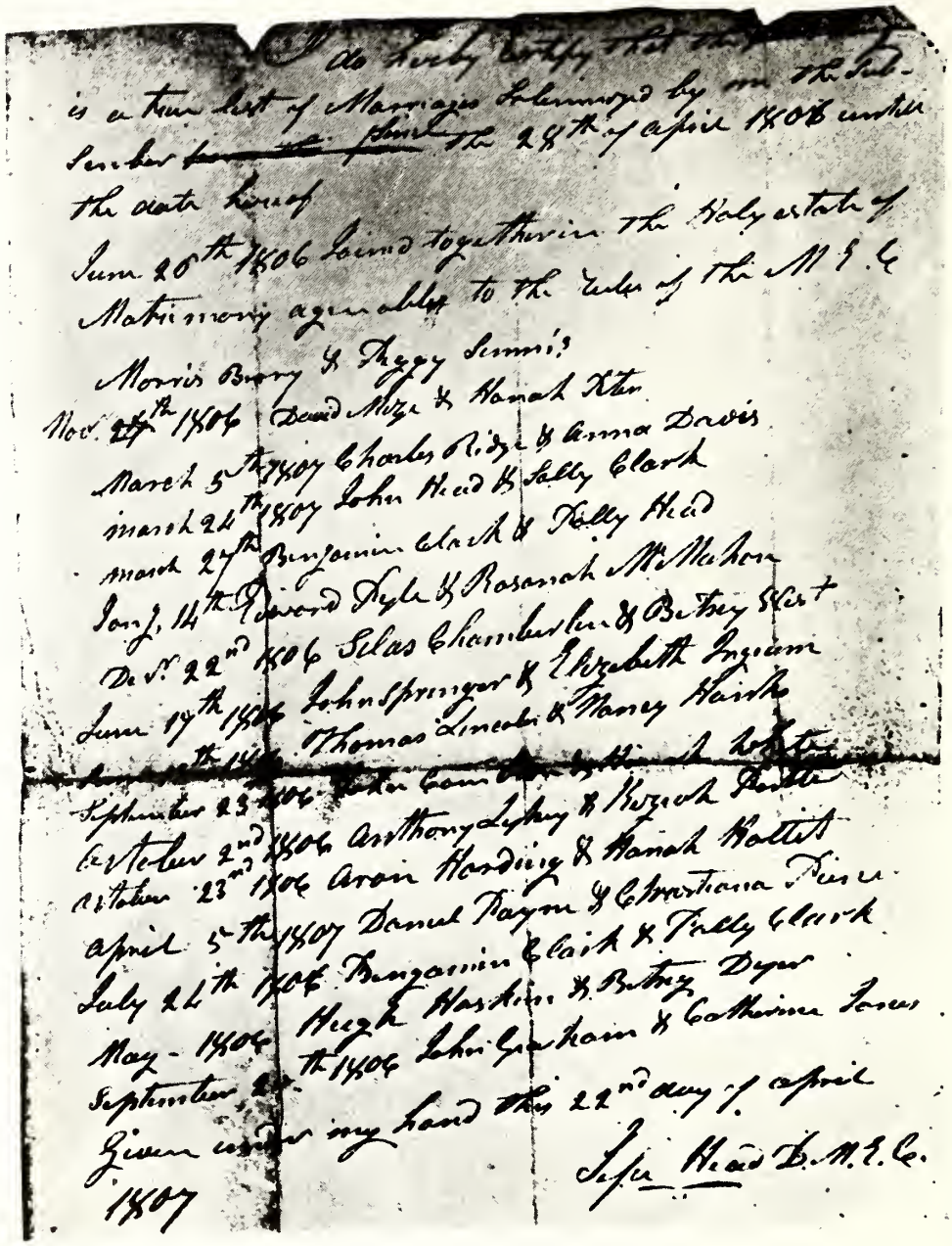
He was Justice of the Peace, and conducted his court in the strictest observance of law and order.

He took up civic duties, and was chairman of the board of trustees, while living at Springfield, and after moving to Harrodsburg, occupied the same position, on numerous occasions. He was known as an abolitionist and freely advocated the freeing of slaves.

For a livelihood, he was a cabinet maker and at one time, with a son, published a newspaper.

He died March 22, 1842, and was buried with Masonic honors. His grave is in Spring Hill Cemetery, Harrodsburg, Ky.

THE MINISTER'S MARRIAGE RETURNS



PHOTOSTAT OF RETURNS

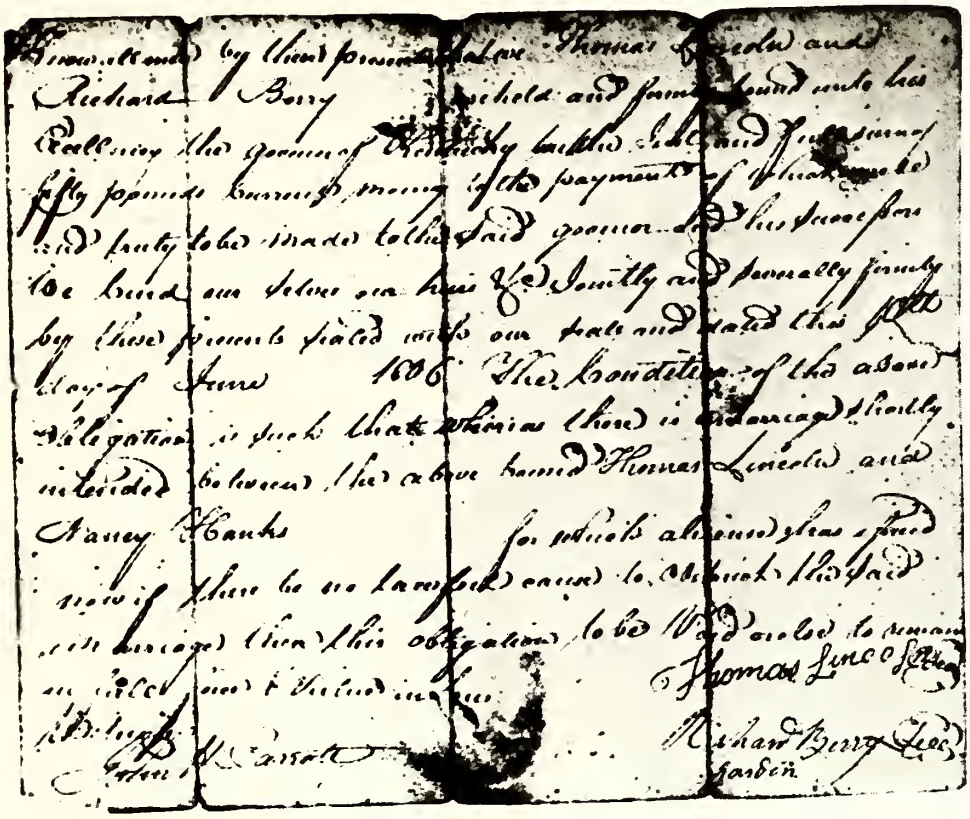
Record in Washington County Court House at Springfield, Kentucky.

"Washington County, sct.:

"I do hereby certify that the following is a true list of marriages solemnized by me, the subscriber, since the 28th day of April, 1806, until the date hereof. June 26, 1806, joined together in the holy state of matrimony, agreeable to the rites of the M. E. C., Morris Berry and Peggy Sims; November 27, 1806, David Mize and Hannah Peter; March 24, 1807, Charles Ridge and Anna Davis; March 24, 1807, John Head and Sallie Clark; March 27, 1807, Benj. Clark and Polly Head; January 14, 1807, Edward Pile and Rosannah McMahon; December 23, 1806, Silas Chamberlain and Betsy West; June 17, 1806, John Springer and Elizabeth Ingram; **June 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks;** September 23, 1806, John C——— and Hannah White; October 2, 1806, Anthony Lytsey and Kesiah Pirtle; October 23rd, Aaron Hardin and Hannah B———; April 5th, 1807, Daniel Payne and Christiana Pierce; July 24th, 1806, Benj. Clark and Polly Clark; May, 1806, Hugh Hoskins and Betsey Dyer; September 25th, 1806, John Graham and Catherine Jones.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of April, 1807. "Jesse Head, D. M. E. C."

THOMAS LINCOLN'S MARRIAGE BOND



PHOTOSTAT OF BOND

Record in Washington County Court House at Springfield, Kentucky.

The following is the wording of the bond:

"Know all men by these presents, that we, Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry, are held and firmly bound unto his Excellency, the Governor of Kentucky, in the just and full sum of fifty pounds, current money, to the payment of which, well and truly to be made to the said Governor an his successors, we bind ourselves, our heirs, etc., jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals, and dated this 10th day of June, 1806. The condition of the above obligation is such that, whereas there is a marriage shortly intended between the above bound Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, for which a license has been issued. Now, if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

"Thomas Lincoln. (Seal.)
"Richard Berry. (Seal.)

"Witness, John H. Parrott."

I do hereby certify that the following
is a true list of Marriages solemnized by me the Sub-
scriber ~~from the~~ since the 28th of April 1806 untill
the date hereof

June 26th 1806 Joined together in the Holy estate of
Matrimony agreeable to the rules of the M. E. C.

Morris Berry & Peggy Sennis

Mar 27th 1806 David Moze & Hanah Peter

March 5th 1807 Charles Ridge & Anna Davis

march 24th 1807 John Head & Sally Clark

march 27th Benjamin Clark & Polly Head

Jany 14th Edward Pyle & Rosanah McMahon

Decr 22nd 1806 Silas Chamberlin & Betsey West

June 17th 1806 John Springer & Elizabeth Ingram

June 10th 1806 Thomas Lincoln & Nancy Hanks

September 23rd 1806 John Cambron & Hanah White

October 2nd 1806 Anthony Lykey & Keziah Porter

October 23rd 1806 Aron Harding & Hanah Walter

April 5th 1807 Daniel Payne & Christiana Pierce

July 24th 1806 Benjamin Clark & Polly Clark

May 1806 Hugh Haskins & Betsey Dyer

September 2[illegible]th 1806 John Graham & Catherine Jones

Given under my hand this 22nd day of April
1807

Jesse Head D. M. E. C.

MARRIAGE RETURN of the Reverend Jesse Head, Deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church, certifying to the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks on June 12, 1806.